

**CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010
6:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, T. McCarthy, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, Austin, Lyons, Blunt, Silva, M. Ayala, Curwen

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Cecil C. Young 99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Mayor's response to medical benefits
Mr. Young was called to address the city council. He wasn't present to speak - <i>see below</i>	
David L. Armstrong 750-4 Seaview Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Tax Rebate for owners in Seaview Village Condominium

Mr. Armstrong spoke about presenting a petition for a tax rebate at the Seaview Village Condominium. He explained that they were required to pay higher property taxes and all the residents felt they were being treated unfairly due to the high tax. He said he thought they were being penalized because they chose to live in Bridgeport. He said they should be entitled to the rebate just as it was given to other residents in the area. He requested that the city council grant the residents that have lived there prior to May 10 a property tax rebate. He expressed that it was the right thing to do – *the petition was submitted to the city clerk.*

Council member Holloway stated that he spoke to the developer a couple a weeks ago. He agreed that the matter isn't fair, because the developer assessed the tax abatement and it was wrong to the people who bought their unit first to not be given the square footage tax abatement. So they are looking to work out a deal for the individuals that bought first that could receive the tax rebate.

Council President McCarthy stated that Council members Holloway, Baker and himself could meet with Mr. Armstrong and the developer to come up with a solution to the problem.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mayor's response to medical
benefits

Mr. Young arrived to the public hearing at 6:45 pm.

Mr. Young spoke about his medical benefits and pursuing action against the city for unjust termination of his benefits. He stated that any employee who is terminated is still eligible for medical benefits, but he was still being denied. He emphasized that this has been going on for three or four years. He recalled that he requested the Mayor to look into the matter, but it was never done. He requested the city council to inquire about the issue with the Mayor and get back to him about the status of his benefits.

The public hearing session ended at 6:50 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 2, 2010

7:00 pm.

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Brantley, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, Austin, Lyons, Blunt, Silva, M. Ayala, Curwen

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer the prayer was offered by Council member A. Ayala.

Pledge of Allegiance the pledge was led by Council member Brannelly.

Moment of Silence

The Mayor asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for the deceased firefighters and he asked that we keep them and their families in our prayers.

Council President McCarthy expressed that there was a large contingent of council members that attended the funerals. He thanked the Mayor and the administration for all the hard work they put into the funerals. He further expressed that firefighters from around the country came to honor the deceased, as well as the Connecticut Honor Guard that came to organize the funerals and offer their help. It was a very impressive collaboration with everyone being there to show their respect. He said he was proud of the Bridgeport Fire Department, the police department and all those that participated.

Mayor Finch added that the city clerk and town clerk were also a part of the funeral arrangements. He stated that other noted politicians were also present, such as Senator Dodd, Congressman Hines, Senator Blumenthal, Governor Rell and others. He thanked everyone involved for their participation. He went on to say that people told him they never saw anything like it in the city and everyone was very moved. And there were twenty fire departments from other cities that came out to help. He especially thanked Chief Rooney for the extraordinary way he took charge of the situation, as well as all the assistant deputies and Scott Appleby who coordinated the funerals through the emergency operation center. Overall, he thanked everyone that worked so well together to do what was done as the best thing for the city.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked the American Red Cross for providing water and snacks for the firefighters and their families. She expressed that they should be commended for their help.

Council member Martinez stated that it was a heartbreaking situation for the families and their children. She stressed that they must continue to promote fire prevention in the schools to assure what needs to be done to remain safe.

Council President McCarthy noted the council members that weren't in attendance tonight: Council members Austin and Silva were ill. Council member Taylor-Moye had a conflict. Council member M. Ayala was in a car accident and recovering and Council member Lyons had surgery.

Roll Call the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

WPCA and Malcom Pirnie, Inc. presentation re the WPCA's Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan

Mayor Finch announced that Phil Robinson was present to review the development of the combined sewer overflow.

The representatives from Malcolm Pirnie addressed the city council to thank them and the Mayor for allowing the presentation.

The elements of the WPCA Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan was reviewed and presented via an overhead visual as it was outlined in the packet distributed. The following topics were reviewed and briefly commented on:

- ◆ *Why is the LTCP Necessary*
- ◆ *Purpose of the CSO Long-Term Control Plan*
- ◆ *What are Combined Sewer Systems* – consists of sanitary components and rain water that enter the system. The representative gave an overview of what happens with sewer overflow, he noted that was the focus of what they were trying to control.
- ◆ *What is a CSO*
- ◆ *Bridgeport Combined Sewer Overflow Locations*
- ◆ *Elements of the Bridgeport WPCA Study* – they will develop a long term control plan with five components to implement the plan.
- ◆ *Progress to Date & Next Steps*
- ◆ *Study Schedule*
- ◆ *Water Quality Sampling Program Locations* - samples were taken during 2009 and the locations were used as reference points to compare the waters in Bridgeport at beach locations. They will take samples at the locations for analyzing and they collected samples during wet weather events for analyzing. The results included findings during wet weather events and there was no impact on the CSO's in larger bodies of water. However, in upstream locations, such as at Ash Creek and the

Pequonnock River, they discovered some connection to the storm sewer in the upper CSO connections, where the water quality has been improved.

◆ *Water Quality Sampling Program Results*

Council member McCarthy asked if a copy of the presentation could be forwarded to all the city council members. The representative Mark acknowledged the request.

Council member dePara relayed that as a member of the ECDE Committee; he asked about the long term control plan for Steel Pointe. Mark stated that Steel Pointe was considered in the plan.

Council President McCarthy clarified that the presentation should also be forwarded to the council members that weren't present tonight.

Council member Brantley asked what the impact would be on the constituents, in terms of their bill. Mark said the plan will impact rates as time goes on. He noted that they may receive a grant for the balance to fund the project.

Council member Brantley asked if the customers will be notified about the project, and how they will be impacted. Mark said the customers would be notified as the project develops.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia mentioned the 134th District. She asked how the project would impact the streets that currently experience flooding problems. Mark said the project wouldn't affect the Oxbrook flooding area.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was anything they could do to assure that there wouldn't be any additional backup to the areas that currently flood. Mark responded that the sewers would be separated and shouldn't be affected.

Mayor Finch stated that the news was better than they anticipated and it should satisfy the DEP requirements. He said it was good that they made some progress and the water is cleaner than it has been in the past. He stressed that the goal was to clean the water to better the quality of life. He requested that the council members to back the project.

44-09 Public Hearing regarding the Disposition of City Owned Properties by Auction or Sale to Abutter or Housing Authority.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia questioned which properties would be sold to the abutter or the Housing Authority. Mr. Peres noted the properties that would go to auction or sold:

- 115 Dodd Avenue – *sold to Housing Authority*
- 216 Cloverhill Street
- 329 Hollister Avenue
- 129 Washington Terrace
- 415 Carroll Street – *sold to Housing Authority*
- 267 James Street
- 145 Andover Street – *sold to Housing Authority*
- 117 Andover Street – *sold to Housing Authority*
- 94 Albion Street - *sold to Housing Authority*

46-09 Public Hearing regarding the Disposition of City Owned Property 751 Kossuth Street to The Boys and Girls Club of Bridgeport, Inc.

It was stated that this was a very small parcel that was formerly residential located behind the Boys/Girls Club.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that there was some question about the Boys/Girls Club located on Madison Avenue. She asked how they could sell the building until the Madison Avenue property hadn't been resolved yet.

Council member Martinez said the property was located in her district and the neighbors had some questions of what's going on, in terms of bringing the matter back to the community to make a decision before any planning happens for that piece of land.

Mayor Finch stated that the council would vote in the future on the matter; he clarified that a public hearing was needed first.

Council member Holloway said the property sits between two houses. His concern was with OPED not offering to sell the property to the abutter. He explained that the abutter might want to expand their land, put in additional parking or a park. He felt it was best to make the offer to them first.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 21, 2010

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. MCCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO REFER TO COMMITTEES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM #'S 122-09; 123-09 AND 124-09**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

- 117-09** Communication from Planning Department re Request for the Abandonments of Ocean Place and Anthony Street Associated with the Improvements to Longfellow Elementary School, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 119-09** Communication from Airport re (Ref. 94-07) Proposed First Amendment to Agreement with the State for Airport Improvement Projects at Sikorsky Memorial Airport, State File No. AERO 5800-1569, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 120-09** Communication from City Attorney re Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation pursuant to Municipal Code Section 12.10.130: James O'Neill, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 121-09** Communication from Mayor re Reappointment of Jose Tiago (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 122-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Bruce Gallo (D) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*
- 123-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Adrienne Houel (R) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*
- 124-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Jack E. McGregor (R) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*
- 125-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Joseph Giaquinto (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 126-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Walter Faherty (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 127-09** Communication from Tax Collector re Refund of Excess Payments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

128-09 Communication from OPM re Modification of the State Section of FY 2010-2014 Capital Plan to utilize LoCIP entitlement funds for roadway paving and City Beautification/Improvement projects including rehabilitation caused by recent storm damage (\$5,804,000), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

129-09 Communication from OPED re Proposed Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement with Four Kids Enterprise, LLC for property located at 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department, referred to Contracts Committee.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

118-09 Resolution presented by Council Member Curwen re Recommendation for the transfer of selected City streets to the State of Connecticut, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA**

Council member dePara requested to remove items 110-09 (PHO) and 111-09 (PHO)

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that item **97-09 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Workers' Compensation Stipulation between the City and Charles Ferreira** should have been on the consent calendar. Her comment was noted by the Mayor and the city clerk.

The city clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record:

***108-09** Ordinance Committee Report re Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.10 The City of Bridgeport Energy Improvement District and Energy Improvement District Board, amended Section 13.10.030, Board, Subsection A.

***105-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health for FY2010-2011 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program.

***106-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health for FY2010-2011 Per Capita Grant.

***112-09(PHO)** Contracts Committee Report re Public Hearing Ordered on September 7, 2010 regarding Proposed Sale and Ground Lease Agreement for property located at Sikorsky Memorial Airport with GAMA Aviation Inc. for use as a Corporate Headquarter Operations.

***104-09** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Settlement Agreement with International Association of Firefighters, Local 843.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
WITH ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY for item 112-09 only)

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE

COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED

Council member Walsh stated that he abstained from voting on item 115-09 in committee due to a personal relationship that is in mutual litigation.

97-09 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Workers' Compensation Stipulation between the City and Charles Fereira.

115-09 **Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Settlement of Pending Litigation with Ohio Indemnity.**

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE ITEM 115-09 WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)

The agenda returned to Communications to be referred to Committees and the items that were excluded from the vote:

122-09 Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Bruce Gallo (D) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*

123-09 Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Adrienne Houel (R) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*

124-09 Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Jack E. McGregor (R) to the Energy Improvement District Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee. - *exception*

COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO APPROVE

COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER BUSINESS:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER AN ITEM TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE RE: WORKERS COMPENSATION MATTER (ITEM # 130-09)**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member dePara returned to the items that were removed from the Consent Calendar:

***110-09(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Public Hearing Ordered on September 7, 2010 regarding the Acquisition of 405 Knowlton Street.

***111-09(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Public Hearing Ordered on September 7, 2010 regarding the Acquisition of 305 Knowlton Street.

He explained that the items were on the agenda by error, because a public hearing was required.

Council member Walsh questioned if they were removing the items for the public hearing and he asked if the items were on the agenda for immediate consideration tonight. It was clarified that they needed a formal vote to **not** hold a public hearing.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway questioned why this was being requested. City Attorney Anastasi clarified that the items were on the agenda and the moving party indicated that a public hearing was not a requirement, so the motion was made to deny the public hearing.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING ITEM 110-09 FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report regarding the Acquisition of 405 Knowlton Street**

Council member Walsh questioned what the urgency was for immediate consideration. Mayor Finch responded that they received over \$6 million for neighborhood stabilization funding and the removal of blight properties and foreclosures. He clarified that the funding will be lost if it's not used. The funds were given to the city to fight blighted properties and one property in particular that is in bad disrepair.

City Attorney Anastasi clarified for the record that that it was **not** a motion for immediate consideration. The matter already went to committee and the item was being added to the agenda under FOI (Freedom of Information) as an action item.

Mayor Finch updated on the details of the property that will be opened up to the public to enjoy the waterfront.

Council member Brannelly questioned if the item was put on the calendar correctly, how would it read.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO ADD 110-09 TO THE AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF 405 KNOWLTON STREET**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

Bill Coleman, OPED explained that the matter pertained to the acquisition of the property that was sold to ACME. He apologized that he wasn't aware of the process regarding items being added to the agenda. He stated that stimulus money was given to them and the deadline to spend it was September 30, 2010; otherwise, the property could be sold to a private developer.

Council member Martinez thanked Mr. Coleman for all the work that he did, noting that the east side residents were excited about the project. She asked that the council members support the item.

Council member T. McCarthy clarified that anything on the agenda needs to follow a set of rules, but Mr. Coleman wasn't aware of that process and has since been informed. He said it was an innocent oversight by Mr. Coleman.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the property was put out to bid for another use. She also mentioned that the properties developed should be open and used by all residents in the city. And she emphasized the importance of getting the properties on the tax role.

Mayor Finch stated that the motion allows them to remove one of the worst blighted properties on the east side. He encouraged approval of the item.

Council member Brannelly asked if the vote was unanimous in committee. And she mentioned that she would vote in support of the item. Council member dePara replied yes.

Council member Brantley stated that it was an important project that will allow access to the waterside. It will also be an opportunity for all residents in the city to enjoy; with fishing etc. She said she was in support of the item.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the taxes on the property were paid. Mr. Coleman said they were current on the taxes.

Council member Walsh stated if there was an issue with the time completion, they should have scheduled a special meeting. He stressed the problem with rushing a land deal and he didn't see any urgency for the approval tonight. He also mentioned potential environmental issues on the property and the matter of foreclosing on the creditor. Mr. Coleman reiterated that they had until September 30, 2010 to spend the funds.

Mayor Finch summarized that the city council went through a lengthy process with the property and it was the reason the NSP money wasn't spent as fast as he would have like it to be, but this was due to the laws of the government that is different than how a private developer operates.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMERS: BAKER, VIZZO-PANICCIA and WALSH)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services